

Date: Fri, 2 Apr 93 20:03:18 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #413
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Fri, 2 Apr 93 Volume 93 : Issue 413

Today's Topics:

 * SpaceNews 05-Apr-93 *
 ARRL/QST's advertising policies
 ARRL living in the past? (was Re: mot
 Dayton is when?
 HELP -- Source needed for silver mica caps
 NYCEMS ?health problems from radios?
 Pactor
 TV Antenna Amps - Summary
 UNIX online practice exam package available by ftp
 Worked Him???? (2 msgs)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 2 Apr 93 15:33:44 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: * SpaceNews 05-Apr-93 *
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

SB NEWS @ AMSAT \$SPC0405
* SpaceNews 05-Apr-93 *

BID: \$SPC0405

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SpaceNews

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MONDAY APRIL 5, 1993

SpaceNews originates at KD2BD in Wall Township, New Jersey, USA. It is published every week and is made available for unlimited distribution.

* STS-56 SAREX NEWS *

=====

Lou McFadin reports the launch of STS-56 has been delayed one day to April 7 at 05:31 UTC. The following are pre-launch Keplerian elements for STS-56:

STS-56

1 00056U	93 97.29005902	.00055200	00000-0	16200-3 0	47
2 00056	57.0020 178.1670 0011289	286.7156	73.2672	15.91759473	23

Satellite: STS-56

Catalog number: 00056

Epoch time: 93097.29005902 = (07 APR 93 06:57:41.10 UTC)

Element set: JSC-004

Inclination: 57.0020 deg

RA of node: 178.1670 deg

Space Shuttle Flight STS-56

Eccentricity: .0011289

Prelaunch Keplerian Elements

Arg of perigee: 286.7156 deg

Launch: 07 APR 93 05:31 UTC

Mean anomaly: 73.2672 deg

Mean motion: 15.91759473 rev/day

G. L. Carman

Decay rate: 5.52000e-04 rev/day*2

NASA Johnson Space Center

Epoch rev: 2

The latest word as of 14:17 UTC 4/1/93 is that there will be an attempt to hold to the 4/6/93 launch date. This set of keps is for the present planned date of 4/7/93. This question should be resolved within 24 hours. It would be best to plan for flexibility.

Ken Cameron, KB5AWP, will be the Commander for the STS-56 shuttle mission on its 9 day mission. The rare night launch from the Kennedy Space Center will place the space shuttle Discovery in a 57 degree (high inclination) orbit. The Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Sciences (ATLAS-2) spacelab payload is the second in a series of missions to measure the long-term variability in the total energy radiated by the Sun and study its interaction with the Earth's atmosphere. The first ATLAS flew on the STS-45 mission in March 1992 (also a SAREX flight). This Spacelab mission uses pallet-mounted hardware in the Shuttle payload bay to study the Earth's atmosphere and variables in the solar spectrum.

Four of the five crew members are currently licensed. The fifth crew member, Steve Oswald, passed his exam and is waiting for his callsign. The five crew members on this mission include Commander Cameron, KB5AWP, Pilot Steve Oswald, Mission Specialist Ken Cockrell, KB5UAH, Mission Specialist Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Mission Specialist Ellen Ochoa, KB5TZZ. STS-56 will carry SAREX configuration D. Configuration D includes 2-meter FM voice, packet, SSTV and 70 cm ATV (receive only). The primary voice callsign for this mission will be KB5AWP. Since this is a high inclination orbit, direct school contacts will be planned.

Most SAREX operations are split-frequency. One frequency is used for "downlink" (the astronauts transmit to Earth stations) and a separate frequency is used for the "uplink" (Earth stations transmit to the astronauts).

The following frequencies are used for two-way FM VOICE communications with the Shuttle astronauts:

Downlink

Worldwide: 145.55 MHz

Uplinks

Europe: 144.70, 144.75 and 144.80 MHz

Rest of world: 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 and 144.99 MHz

Note: The crew will not favor any specific uplink frequency, so your ability to communicate with SAREX will be the "luck of the draw."

The following frequencies are used for PACKET communications with the Shuttle:

Downlink: 145.55 MHz

Uplink: 144.49 MHz

For all operations, Earth stations should listen to the downlink frequency and transmit only when the Shuttle is in range and the astronauts are on the air. Listen for any instructions from the astronauts as to specific uplink frequencies in use during the current pass. In addition, listen to the uplink frequencies before transmitting to avoid interference to other users.

And, as always, please DO NOT transmit on the SAREX downlink frequency of 145.550 MHz!

[Info via Frank H. Bauer, KA3HDO, V.P. for Manned Space Programs]

★ OSCAR-13 NEWS ★

=====

QST de G3RUH 1993 Mar 19. To further encourage users, Mode S is now ON for an additional 20 MA units, i.e. MA 100 - MA 135. MA 100-120 you will have to endure the coupling from Mode-B users operating at 145.880 - 145.920 MHz. Either work around them, or use as LSB test signals.

MA 120-130 is Mode S transponder exclusive (plus B beacon).

MA 130-135 is mode S beacon (plus mode-L transponder).

73 de James G3RUH, Graham VK5AGR and Peter DB20S

*** AO-13 TRANSPONDER SCHEDULE *** 1993 Mar 19 - May 10

Mode-B : MA 0 to MA 100 !

Mode-BS : MA 100 to MA 120 !<- S transponder; B trsp. is ON

Mode-S : MA 120 to MA 130 !<- S transponder; B trsp. is OFF

Mode-LS : MA 130 to MA 135 !<- S beacon + L transponder

Mode-JL : MA 135 to MA 150 ! Alon/Alat 180/0

Mode-B : MA 150 to MA 256 ! Move to attitude 210/0, May 10

Please don't uplink to B, MA 120-130. It interferes with mode S.

[Info via James Miller, G3RUH]

* ISAS NEWS *

=====

According to the evening 1993 March 25 edition of the Yomiuri Shimbun, a leading paper in Japan, the Space Activities Commission (SAC) issued its 1993 launch schedule. ISAS needs more time to develop new M-V rocket, the launches by M-V will be delayed as follows:

MUSES-B (1994->1995)

PLANET-B (1996->1996) no change due to limited launch window)

LUNAR-A (1995->1997)

The fiscal year in Japan starts on April 1st each year. SAC coordinates NASDA and ISAS, two space agencies in Japan. ISAS engages in science while NASDA pursues applications. The M-V is about 2.5 times than ISAS' largest M-3SII in launch capability.

Lunar-A: Will elucidate the crust structure and thermal construction of the moon's interior.

MUSES-B: (Mu Space Engineering Satellite-B):

Studies the large precision development structure, mechanism and radiowave astronomical observations as space VLBI.

PLANET-B: Will be placed in Mars orbit to study the structure and motions of the Martian atmosphere and its interaction with the solar winds.

LUNAR-A: Will study the crust and the thermal structure of the moon.

[Info via Yoshiro Yamada]

* AO-21 NEWS *

=====

AMSAT-OSCAR-21's RUDAK transponder is currently offering a healthy mix of FM voice repeater operation, along with a digital voice message in both English and German, in addition to AX.25 telemetry frames.

The following AO-21 RUDAK schedule was copied by KD2BD on 01-Apr-93:

RUDAK2>BEACON <UI C>:

++ Hi, this is the RUDAK-II experiment on AMSAT OSCAR 21 ++

RUDAK2>BEACON <UI C>:

RUDAK-II Schedule:	Downlink	145.987
UTC (Min. MOD 10)	Beacon Mode	Uplink/MHz
0...4	FM Repeater	435.016
5...7	Digital Voice	no
8...9	AFSK Telemetry	no

* COMMAND ERROR FOILS DOHOP *

=====

G0NKA and G3IOR advise that due to an apparent error at the Russian military station GCC which commands RS14/A021's "host" spacecraft, INFORMATOR-1, the DoHop test which had been scheduled for 28 March did not take place. The command station turned on the satellite's 2m CW beacon but Mode B Transponder 2 was not enabled as had been planned.

Several G stations, including G4CU0 and G3IOR, were heard in the USA around the times originally scheduled for DoHop, but these were transmitting on 2m directly through RS10. There was an accomplishment nonetheless, since RS10 was slightly below the horizon in the UK when their downlink signals were heard in the US.

Additional DoHop tests are planned in the coming months.

[Info via Ray Soifer, W2RS]

* FEEDBACK/INPUT WELCOMED *

=====

Mail to SpaceNews should be directed to the editor (John, KD2BD) via any of the following paths:

FAX : 1-908-747-7107
UUCP : ...catfish.ocpt.ccur.com!ka2qhd!kd2bd
PACKET : KD2BD @ NN2Z.NJ.USA.NA
INTERNET : kd2bd@ka2qhd.ocpt.ccur.com -or- kd2bd@amsat.org

MAIL : John A. Magliacane, KD2BD
Department of Engineering and Technology
Advanced Technology Center
Brookdale Community College
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738
U.S.A.

<<-- SpaceNews: The first amateur newsletter read in space! -=>>

/EX

--
John A. Magliacane, KD2BD * /\ /\ * Voice : 1-908-224-2948
Advanced Technology Center | /\ /\ /\ | Packet : KD2BD @ NN2Z.NJ.USA.NA
Brookdale Community College | /\ /\ /\ | Internet: kd2bd@ka2qhd.ocpt.ccur.com
Lincroft, NJ 07738 * /\ /\ * Morse : -. -.. ..--- -... -..

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 1993 01:28:22 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!darwin.sura.net!emory!athena!
aisun3.ai.uga.edu!mcovingt@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: ARRL/QST's advertising policies
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <6201@catnip.berkeley.ca.us> kc6sss@catnip.berkeley.ca.us (Andrew Scott Beals -- KC6SSS) writes:

>Someone remarked yesterday, explaining why the ARRL/QST does not take
>advertising from the Lambda ARC because "They don't take advertising
>from other organizations like religious organization, the African-American
>ARC, etc."

>BZZZT WRONG!

>Page 116, April '93 QST:

>Chaverim International

>(An Association of Jewish Radio Amateurs and their Friends)

Right, I was not speaking for the ARRL but merely guessing their policy,
and I should have phrased my guess more carefully. Right after posting
it I remembered seeing ads like the one you quote.

I stand by my main point, which is that the ARRL is apparently avoiding

(and has a right to avoid) publishing ads that would raise _controversies_ irrelevant to radio.

--

:- Michael A. Covington internet mcovingt@ai.uga.edu : *****
:- Artificial Intelligence Programs phone 706 542-0358 : *****
:- The University of Georgia fax 706 542-0349 : * * *
:- Athens, Georgia 30602-7415 U.S.A. amateur radio N4TMI : ** *** **

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 1993 01:24:03 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!jfh@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: ARRL living in the past? (was Re: mot
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>|>3) The definition of "family" for a family membership comes from a
>|> different time, not that it was ever valid. It excludes not only
>|> gay and lesbian couples and their children, but children who live
>|> with their aunts and uncles, grandparents, or other family members.
>
>If I were on some board discussing this issue, the solution I might offer
>would be, if the law where you live (for taxation purposes etc.) says
>you are a family, then you are a family.

I'd say "Any two or more people living at the same address may consider themselves a family."

>This would prevent abuse of the system (non-family members sharing
>memberships etc.)

I don't think that would be a significant problem. If they're not close enough to consider themselves a family, they're probably not close enough to share a QST either, and that's a significant membership benefit.

--

Jack Hamilton KD6TTL jfh@netcom.com PO Box 281107 SF, CA 94128 USA

Date: Fri, 2 Apr 1993 19:26:05 -0500
From: europa.eng.gtefsd.com!fs7.ece.cmu.edu!news.sei.cmu.edu!bb3.andrew.cmu.edu!
andrew.cmu.edu!ll24+@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Dayton is when?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I was wondering when the Dayton Hamfest is. (I'm hoping I haven't

all ready missed it.) Could someone send me info on it? Thanks a bunch!

Kurt,

PS Please send responce to ks37@andrew.cmu.edu, this is just a friends account....

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 1993 02:03:33 GMT
From: swrinde!sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!news.dtc.hp.com!srngenprp!
alanb@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: HELP -- Source needed for silver mica caps
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

segrest@bobseg.enet.dec.com (segrest@bobseg.enet.dec.com) wrote:

: I am in need of 10 each 10pf 5% silver Mica Capacitors to complete
: a radio conversion project. Price is not likely to be an issue.

Suggest you consider NPO-type ceramic capacitors. They are quite
stable with temperature and should work fine in most mica applications.

AL N1AL

Date: Fri, 2 Apr 1993 23:09:04 GMT
From: news.Hawaii.Edu!uhunix.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu!shalamsk@ames.arpa
Subject: NYCEMS ?health problems from radios?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

<long article about EMS workers' health problems deleted>

It's really easy to ASSUME that a link exists between the radios and the
health problems, but keep in mind that EMS workers are under great stress,
and stress has been proven to contribute to reduced immune response.
Also note that EMS workers have lots of other hazards in their environment
besides radios.

Of course, I'd like to see some studies done to confirm or disprove the
possibility of a link between cancer and 440 MHz radios...

Well, back to doing my Statistics homework :-)

Aloha de KJ9U/KH6, Senior in Mathematics at the University of Hawaii
--

INTERNET: shalamsk@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu, kj9u@uhm.ampr.org
I speak for no one other than myself, of course.

Date: Thu, 01 Apr 1993 15:55:18 -0500
From: sdd.hp.com!spool.mu.edu!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!eff!news.oc.com!utacfd.uta.edu!
rwsys!ricksys!lawton!red.uucp!terry@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Pactor
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In <1pam8t\$har@news.ysu.edu>, Jeff Gold writes:

>
>Is anyone out there using Pactor.
>
>Are there enough people using it to make it worth while
>upgrading my 232?
>
>What software will run Pactor.
>
>I now use ACUTERM and really like it... really didn't like
>the AEA software.
>

Jeff one of the things I do is run a support BBS for amateur radio operators
that use Atari computers. So far I have received one program that is specially
written to support Pactor. Its written by W8ZZO and is designed to work
only with the AEA PK-232MBX Pactor capable TNC.

Apparently a major advantage of Pactor is the complete ASCII character set
which means that you can use both upper and lower case.

I hope the information helps. Regards, Terry.

--

DOMAIN: terry%red@lawton.lonestar.org (Terrence R. Redding)
UUCP: . . . !rwsys!lawton!red!terry (Terrence R. Redding)
PACKET: WB5LMJ @ WB5MJS.OK.USA.NA
Voice 405 536-8822, Ben's Place (Benjamin Franklin) BBS 536-6988 9p to 6a
PhD candidate, University of Oklahoma in Adult and Higher Education
Educational Advisor, American Radio Relay League
221 SW Crystal Hills Drive, Lawton, Oklahoma 73505

Date: 2 Apr 1993 23:47:11 GMT
From: sun-barr!news2me.EBay.Sun.COM!exodus.Eng.Sun.COM!appserv.Eng.Sun.COM!sage!
dlarner@ames.arpa
Subject: TV Antenna Amps - Summary
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

A while back I posted a question about TV antenna amplifiers, and thought it was time to relate my experiences with the approach I took. My original post was basically :

>What are some good antenna amplifiers for TV VHF and UHF ?
>I live in Almaden area of San Jose. Current reception with 'rabbit ears' is
>nearly non-existent on VHF, and marginal to ok on UHF.
>>My plan is to put a VHF/UHF antenna in the small attic (this means the
>antenna must be rather small / low gain), and add a broadband amp
>(TV VHF through UHF) at the antenna to feed a RG59 run down to a
>splitter (for 2 TVs) on the 1st floor.

Overall the responders to my original questions thought the Radio Shack amp (the high end model) did a good job, although one said it was highly susceptible to 2m interference, and recommended an amp (about \$100) available from MCM electronics. RG6 was recommended over RG59, and better quality than RS splitters were recommended (one reported 13db loss at UHF channel 49).

Here's what I ended up doing:

I got the largest antenna that would fit in the attic - it had about a 5 foot center boom. (note also that I have a tile roof, and this is an attic above the second story) Using maps, I aimed the antenna toward San Francisco (since that's where most of the VHF stations are, and VHF was my biggest problem). About 2 feet of RG6 cable connects the antenna to the Radio Shack Amp (FM attenuator switched in, gain setting at the max (although the latter setting really doesn't effect things much - seems like 10 db or so is enough all in itself). FM attenuator on *does* make a difference though, and not having the amp at all causes a big degradation.) From the amp, RG6 runs down to a splitter on the first floor (run length is 35 to 40 feet). I used an RS splitter because I happened to have one lying around. From the splitter, there is one (about 3 feet) run to a TV, and another (about 25 foot) run to another TV.

Result:

I now receive all the VHF stations. Main problem is VHF ghosting. Unfortunately the attic is too small to allow much movement of the antenna. I'm not sure if any amount of antenna movement would help much though, my guess is that the nearby mountains are the main cause (comments from any other folk nearby to mountains ???) UHF channels are for the most part clear and interference/ghost free.
Total cost (everything from RS) about \$140 (about 6 months worth of cable fees), with some cable and connectors left over.

Plans:

Get the antenna system properly grounded (still no ground connection).

Get a better splitter if I happen to be in a convenient position to do so.
Get a better quality amp if I experience TVI when I get my 2m rig up.
Wait for the Ghost elimination transmissions / circuitry that will be
available in a couple years (I'll probably need a new TV by then anyway -
my current sets are about 8 years old.)

-- Dan, WV9Z

```
grep technokicks *.* | more ++++++
Dan Lerner                Daniel.Larner@eng.sun.com
Sun Microsystems          (415) 336-5349
All opinions expressed are solely my own, not my employer's.
+++++
```

Date: 3 Apr 1993 01:12:14 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!darkstar.UCSC.EDU!ucscb.UCSC.EDU!
spcecdt@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: UNIX online practice exam package available by ftp
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I wrote a practice exam program for UNIX systems for use by some friends
who are working on their licenses. I've since had various others ask me for
it, so I've made it available by anonymous ftp. It's on ftp.ucsc.edu in
public/hamtest.tar.Z.

The program is written in awk. I've made it work with the awks included
with BSD 4.3 and SCO UNIX 3.2v4 and with gawk 2.13. It could probably be
made to work on other systems with a bit of porting (perhaps even non-UNIX
systems using MKS awk or gawk). It includes a small C program to get
single-character input. If it finds that the program is not available, it will
still work but will require that return be hit after each response. It uses
datafiles from the DOS AUTOEXAM package written by Rick Bono, NM1D. I've made
it deal with various problems with the datafiles rather than clean them up so
that it will work with updated versions of the files without having to clean
them up each time. The datafiles are each about ~100K; the program is quite
slow to start up on less-than-fast systems. Someone may wish to rewrite it in
C.

Feel free to mail me regarding problems, porting questions, etc. If you
make it work on other systems while retaining its current range, let me know.

John

--

John DuBois spcecdt@armory.com KC6QKZ

Date: 3 Apr 93 00:52:06 GMT

From: pa.dec.com!nnnpd2.cxo.dec.com!10540.enet.dec.com!jepsen_st@decwrl.dec.com

Subject: Worked Him????

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>Last night I worked NF6***/KP1 at 0238 UTC. I was hoping that someone
>could fill in the rest. Namely, the rest of his call and if this was
>Navassa Island. He was sending just above the range where I can copy

If you didn't even get his call or QTH, how can you claim to have
'worked him'?

Steve...AI7W

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 1993 01:06:00 GMT

From: swrinde!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!uwm.edu!linac!att!cbnewsm!

jeffj@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Worked Him????

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Apr2.235248.28256@nnnpd2.cxo.dec.com> jepsen_st@10540.enet.dec.com
(10540::jepsen_st) writes:

>>Last night I worked NF6***/KP1 at 0238 UTC. I was hoping that someone
>>could fill in the rest. Namely, the rest of his call and if this was
>>Navassa Island. He was sending just above the range where I can copy
>

>If you didn't even get his call or QTH, how can you claim to have
>'worked him'?

>

>Steve...AI7W

Well the only reason I had questions about the KP1 was I thought that
Navassa Island could only be reached via a major dxexpedition. I was certain
it was KP1 but maybe it was a case of thinking too much that made me question
it. I spent an hour trying to copy his call after I worked him! I had
NF6?/KP1. Knew that he was on Navassa island after consulting my chart
of calls and had his call just missing one letter. Let's see, oh yes, I
heard him, he heard me, I sent him a report, he sent me a report. Hmmm,
sounds like a contact to me. Maybe not a perfect one. Anyway in the
log it goes and a QSL card is on its way. As this is the second comment

I have had on the validity of QSO all I can say is "Sorry guys, it's valid to me and to the DX and that's all that really matters." 73!

Jeff

--

Jeff Jones	AB6MB		OPPOSE THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT!
jeffj@seeker.mystic.com			Canada/USA Free Trade cost Canada 400,000 jobs.
Infolinc BBS 415-778-5929			Want to guess how many we'll lose to Mexico?

Date: Sat, 3 Apr 1993 01:20:42 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!jfh@decwrl.dec.com
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1pclsg\$af8@transfer.stratus.com>, <jfhC4vD2H.204@netcom.com>,
<1pibl4\$rtv@transfer.stratus.com>
Subject : Re: ARRL living in the past? (was Re: motive ...)

fms@sw.stratus.com (Faith Senie) wrote:

>Who is upholding the stereotype here -- Connie, who has apparently attempted
>to talk to OMs about pies, or the OMs that refuse to listen to pie talk?
>We need more pie-talk on the air -- there's an awful lot of "59 with QSB,
>nice antenna, my rig is Icom" out there, and not enough "how do you keep your
>dough from sticking to the rolling pin?" :-)

I use a marble rolling pin with a pastry cloth cover. Works fairly well.

>I think, ultimately, the best way to achieve balance is to get more women
>involved in the hobby, which means getting more women interested in technical
>and/or scientific interests, which means breaking down some stereotypes
>that have been in place for long enough for a lot of women to take them as
gospel.
>The new Technician license has been helpful, but there needs to be more work
>in the schools and colleges before we'll make serious inroads.

Absolutely. I hope the ARRL will do what it can to encourage that. I really don't think that amateur radio can afford, with increasing demand for spectrum from commercial big-bucks interest, to discourage anyone from becoming involved, either with radio or with the ARRL.

--

Jack Hamilton KD6TTL jfh@netcom.com PO Box 281107 SF, CA 94128 USA

Date: 2 Apr 93 20:06:47 CST
From: timbuk.cray.com!walter.cray.com!craywr!www@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <C4MsHH.Mz7@odin.corp.sgi.com>, <1993Mar31.144451.2694@mixcom.com>,
<1993Mar31.172036.17154@VFL.Paramax.COM>
Subject : Re: "CB transplants"

>Okay, here's a little quiz. How many of you *never* used a CB before
>becoming a ham?

>

>The rest of you, hang your heads in shame; you're "CB transplants."

I'm too young to have used 11m as a ham band. But I did have quite
an interest in amateur radio long before I obtained my first ticket.
And I had my first license before having ever used CB.

The first time I was on the air was using a station that a friend
of my dad's had. A full Collins S-Line including a 75S-1, 32S-1,
30L-1, Collins phone patch/wattmeter, matching Collins desk mic,
Johnson KW matchbox, and a big longwire... (This elmer is now an SK,
but had been a ham since 1918 or so. And he had a full set of QSTs
from about that date!) Anyway, there was no way I could be satisfied
with a puny 5-watt 23-channel (at the time) AM CB set.

After I obtained my license, a friend of mine who was into CB *insisted*
on visiting my station. He wasn't very impressed watching me (attempt)
to call CQ on 40 meter CW with my HW-16 and HG-10 (yeah, I know you were
supposed to use crystals. :-). It wasn't pretty. Needless to
say he had no interest in getting a ham license after that.

So I think the no-code Tech, as it currently exists, is a Good Thing.
I was also quite pleased with the Novice enhancement giving phone privies
on 10m. When I obtained my first Novice license, I would have had to
travel 180 miles, to Chicago, to upgrade it to general. Nowadays, thanks
to the VEC system, you can get a license with little effort. There has
never been a better time to get into amateur radio.

Walt (Extra class now and was once WN9PPF)

Walt Spector
(www@renaissance.cray.com)
Sunnyvale, California

..- ..- -' ..-

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #413
